

Taming of the Shrew

Act 1 scene 2

Directions: In small groups (4-5 students) you should complete the following activities. They may seem a bit strange, but remember I'm an expert and they will help you understand the play better. One person will take notes and write down how these activities have helped your understanding of the play also make note of who does what in your group activities, writing, reading, taking the lead to make sure the work gets done etc. Do as much as you can during the class period and turn in whatever you complete.

1. Two volunteers read aloud, slowly, lines 49-77 (page 51-52) everyone else listens carefully. Whenever you hear a word connected with money, "echo" it in a whisper. Repeat the activity with a different pair of readers, but this time echo every word connected with sex or love.
2. Afterwards, talk together about what the "echoing" tells you about Petruchio.
3. Talk together about the ways in which Petruchio's language changes as he speaks to Grumio or Hortensio. How do you account for the differences?
4. "Katherine the curst" say Hortensio and Grumio; and so Katherina is pigeonholed by the men. Think up similar labels for other characters we have met so far in the play:
Bianca the...
Petruchio the....
Baptista the...
Tranio the....
Lucentio the....
Hortensio the...
Gremio the....
5. Read Petruchio's lines 201-213 (page 63 top)
 - Read them through again stressing the verbs.
 - Read them again emphasizing all the words concerned with sound.
 - One speaks the words from the last two exercises as a kind of running commentary, while the rest mime the story they suggest.
 - Talk together- is Petruchio just boasting, or could it all be true?